

Howard

S.O.

8260 Roadless & Undeveloped Areas

June 30, 1977

Roadless & Undeveloped Areas Inventory (RARE II)

All District Rangers

REPLY DUE NO LATER THAN JULY 7, 1977

Enclosed are the national instructions for completing the inventory of roadless and undeveloped areas within the National Forest System under RARE II. We will need no later than July 7, to meet Regional deadline, a U.S.G.S. base map (1 mile = 2.64 inches) showing the inventory as covered below in the instructions. Base maps of the planning units involved are being supplied from this office.

The specifics by District to be covered in this inventory are:

- D-1 Refine Gold Hill boundary in Ziegler P.U. under RARE II criteria.  
P.U. 18 - Look for roadless areas using RARE II criteria.
- D-2 Refine Mt. Henry RARE Under RARE II criteria.  
P.U. 35 & 36 - Inventory roadless areas using RARE II criteria.  
P.U. 39 - Look for roadless areas using RARE II criteria.
- D-3 Tuchuck and Thompson Seton - Re-inventory using RARE II criteria.  
Refine Ten Lakes and contiguous that meets RARE II criteria.  
P.U. 30 & 33 - Look for roadless areas using RARE II criteria.
- D-4 Refine Scotchman Peak boundary within Bull Lake and Keeler P.U.'s using RARE II criteria.  
Refine Cabinet Face West boundary in P.U. 5 & 13 using RARE II criteria.  
Refine areas contiguous to Boulder Planning Unit in P.U. 11 & 12 using RARE II criteria.
- D-5 Refine Cabinet Face East boundary within Hoodoo P.U. using RARE II criteria.
- D-6 P.U. 24 - Look for roadless areas using RARE II criteria.  
Refine Richards Mountain boundary in P.U. 22 using RARE II criteria.  
Refine McGregor Lake roadless area boundary using RARE II criteria.  
P.U. 29 - Look for roadless areas using RARE II criteria.
- D-7 Refine boundaries of all inventoried roadless areas within the District using RARE II criteria. i.e., Cataract, Galena, Trout Creek, McKay Creek,

and Scotchman Peak.

Look for other roadless areas using RARE II criteria throughout the District, including roadless adjacent to Cabinet Wilderness boundary.

The S.O. will show the "perfected" boundary of those RARE areas within or partially within units with a final E.S. using RARE I criteria.

FLOYD J. MARITA  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

cc: Howard  
Mueller

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## RARE II Criteria

1. Inventory process for the Forest Service to follow in preparing a list of potential wildernesses:
  - a. Map and list all existing wilderness scenic and primitive areas.
  - b. Map and list the original roadless area inventory (RARE I).
  - c. Consolidate areas contiguous in the RARE I inventory. Add any areas missed in the original inventory. These areas should:
    - 1) Contain 5,000 acres or more, or
    - 2) Contain less than 5,000 acres, but due to physiography and/or vegetation, are manageable in their natural conditions, or
    - 3) Be a self-contained ecosystem (e.g., an island).Add areas contiguous to existing wilderness, primitive areas, or Administration proposed wildernesses, regardless of jurisdiction.
  - d. Add areas subsequently identified as roadless through land management planning.
  - e. Add as a separate group areas designated by Congress for wilderness study, administration proposals pending before Congress and other legislative proposals pending which have been endorsed by the Administration.
  - f. List and subtract areas allocated for non-wilderness in land management plans for which final environmental statements have been filed so long as the areas are not included in Administration-endorsed pending legislation. This list will be adjusted on a continuing basis as land management plan final environmental statements are filed.
2. Section 1 provides the process to identify potential wildernesses in the National Forest System. The public will then be afforded the opportunity to suggest adjustments. Following receipt of public comment during workshops or otherwise, prepare a list of areas the public wishes to add or delete from the inventory. (More details will follow.)
3. The following are offered for your consideration, not as absolute criteria or standards, but rather as guidelines to help you in your inventory process.

Forest Service Manual 2321.1 through 2321.11 (d) is the basis for the inventory considerations, recognizing that we can include in the Wilderness System lands not entirely free of marks of mankind but fully capable of providing long-term wilderness benefits to many people. We should look openly at features or uses traditionally considered nonconforming recognizing that we can be more innovative in "managing around" the objectionable features to minimize their impacts and ensure optimum wilderness quality.

a. Definitions

- (1) Roadless Areas: An area of undeveloped Federal land within which there are no improved roads maintained for travel by means of motorized vehicles intended for highway use. Generally exclude narrow projecting tentacles or fingers unless they meet the criteria for "Roadless Islands" below. Use one mile width as general criteria.
- (2) Roadless Islands: A roadless area that is surrounded by permanent waters or that is markedly distinguished from surrounding lands by topographical or ecological features such as precipices, canyons, thickets, or swamps.
- (3) Improved Road: A constructed or maintained vehicle way for the use of highway type vehicles having more than two wheels.

b. Forest Service criteria guides for the initial inventory:

"Undeveloped roadless areas" can include:

- (1) Timber Harvests: Include harvest areas where logging is not evident. Areas may be included which contain early logging activities related to historic settlement of the vicinity, where stumps and skid trails or roads are substantially unrecognizable, or where clear cuts have re-generated to the degree that canopy closure is similar to surrounding uncut areas on site.
- (2) Cultural Treatments: Plantations or plantings where the use of mechanical equipment is not evident.
- (3) Mining: Areas with evidence of historic mining (50 years ago) may be included. Areas of significant current mineral activity including prospecting with mechanical earthmoving equipment

should not be included. Do not exclude areas where the only evidence of prospecting is holes which have been drilled without the need for access roads to the site.

Do not include areas with significant leases issued under the 1920 Leasing Act (O&G, Geothermal, Coal, Phosphate, etc.). Prospecting permits would generally not cause an area to be excluded.

- (4) Range Improvements: Do not exclude areas because of the existence of minor range improvements such as fences and water troughs. Exclude type conversions where chained trees are readily visible and apparent. Do not exclude spray or burning projects where there is little or no evidence of the project.
- (5) Electronic Installations: Television, radio and telephone repeaters, and the like may be included, provided their impact is minimal.
- (6) Utility Corridors: Telephone lines, powerlines, and underground pipelines should generally be excluded if they involve a cleared right-of-way. Do not exclude ground-return telephone lines.
- (7) Recreation Improvements: Areas may include occupancy spots or minor hunting or outfitter camps. Developed sites will generally not be included. Include minor developments that could be easily removed.
- (8) Water-related Facilities: Watershed treatment areas may be included only where the use of mechanical equipment is not evident. Do not exclude areas where minor watershed treatment has been accomplished by hand; i.e., small hand constructed gully plugs.
- (9) Private Lands: Include only areas consisting of more than 70 percent Federal ownership unless the Federal lands can be managed in their natural condition.
- (10) Airstrips and Helispots: Airstrips and helispots may be included.

The following legend shall be used on the work copy to display the sources of the roadless and undeveloped areas. This is the

legend the District will use on the U.S.G.S. base map to be sent in by July 7, 1977. Use pencil width color along boundary - do not color solid.

1. Work Map Legend

- a. Yellow - Existing wilderness and primitive areas.
- b. Light blue - Original roadless and undeveloped areas inventory as "perfected."
- c. Dark blue - Areas designated by Congress for wilderness study or endorsed by the administration in pending legislation.
- d. Red - Land allocations completed through LMP with FES files. (Areas to be subtracted).

It is imperative good judgement is used in this inventory. Below is listed additional explanations we hope will help answer questions you may have.

1. Size - Should usually contain at least 5,000 acres inside the proclaimed National Forest System boundary or on adjacent public lands or a combination thereof. Generally, should be in a compact unit with a minimum width of not less than 2 miles between points of road access. However, there may be exceptions to this generalized rule. Common sense should be applied in each case. If an area narrows to less than 2 miles in width but quickly widens again to the stated width of 2 or more miles, every consideration should be given to mapping the bottleneck as a continuation of the roadless resource. Tentacles or fingers less than one mile in width should generally be excluded.
2. Boundaries - Must come to the edges of, rather than including, established roads or other developed lands. Consider established roads as those with a well-defined roadway which has significant cuts, fills and drainage. Disregard existing "jeep trails" or parallel-wheel tracks that could be closed or made to become obscure. Should not contain major structures or installations such as railroads, transmission lines, large concrete dams, tramways, microwave, or other communication installations. An installation occupying a small site such as a radio repeater or TV translator would not cause the entire area to be omitted.